

## Book and Tract Work.

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### COLPORTAGE ASSOCIATION.

In keeping with the saying used by Baxter, over a hundred years ago, that he would "rather be the author of books to be carried on peddler's backs to the poor man's door than of books to stand in golden libraries," the Colportage Association has thus far, through its something over three hundred colporters, been privileged to come in touch with hundreds of families. Judging from the scores of letters that we receive from those who have read the silent messenger, the printed page, and been blessed by it, this saying of Baxter will, we trust, be one of our mottoes.

One of the most prominent features, which has been thoroughly tested in different centers, is the Gospel Circulating Library. Envelops are provided for a trial order where one hundred books are purchased, in which each book is placed to facilitate handling. It affords an opportunity to reach the non-church-goers that is unrivalled. The book is left one day; the colporter, the day following when he collects the book or sells it, can ascertain whether they are in attendance at any church or not, and thus get them to attend.

On account of the absolute lack of religious books in foreign languages in this country, the Colportage Association will issue twelve foreign books in Volume 2, and all of the foreign books are ready to be mailed at the present writing. They are in the following languages: Swedish, German, Danish-Norwegian.

The subscription price of the Colportage Library for the second year, postpaid, for both English and foreign editions, twenty-four numbers complete, is \$2.25. Twelve numbers in English, \$1.20, or twelve numbers in foreign languages, \$1.20. Single numbers fifteen cents each.

### OUR WORK IN ITS INFANCY.

Yet the child ought to be a little larger than it is. The above extract is a straw, showing how Mr. Moody works by means of the printing press. If one man, earnest and consecrated can do much, what ought ten thousand men do who have not only the means, but who profess to have the desire. Let the Brethren Publication Board have the chance some organizations have and you will see a great and wonderful work. You may have the spirit and the means but there must be the chance. Pure literature will widen and deepen and guard that channel, and also open new

ones. We can no more depend on the literature of other churches than we can depend on their preachers. We must have our schools and preachers and presses and missions if we would do the right work in a right manner.

### THE QUESTION ANSWERED.

What is a tract? A tract is a seed, a vital particle, that, deposited and diffused, will produce appropriate fruit. It is not truth in a great mass, but it follows all the analogies of nature in all departments of her operations. A tract is not too weighty to be carried; it is not too bulky to be deposited; it may be carried anywhere; it may be deposited almost anywhere. We know that the seeds of plants and of flowers are carried by the birds of the air; are carried even by the breezes of heaven from one island and from one continent to another; they are deposited in most unlikely places—in crevices of rocks, on mountain sides, in places untrodden by the foot of man—and so an unsuspected vegetation springs up in places that have received no ministry from human hand. Well, so it is with tracts. A little child may be their minister; you may drop them from the window of a carriage; you may leave them in a railway train; you may give them to a passing traveler. No man who is not very shallow, who is not very ignorant, will disparage the power of little things. We know in manifold departments of human life how little things are operating, and with what mighty power they operate. The Bible itself is simply a collection of tracts; it is made up of tracts written by men whose names are all held in the greatest reverence, and its power is due, perhaps, very largely to the fact that its different compositions are so short, so portable: because we can read a letter of Paul, or one of the Gospels, in so short a space of time.

### MONEY MAKES TRACTS GO.

Because it takes money to buy paper and ink and run presses and pay postage, not much, it is true, but every little counts, and if people only realized the great good they might do while time is passing, it seems to me that they would be crowding each other in their efforts to help scatter them.

### A CHURCH BUILT FROM TRACTS.

The following is from the Epworth Herald. It is worth reading and thinking over:

A business man in Chicago has distributed over 8,000,000 tracts on systematic benevolence. Another business man

in the same city sent out a lot of leaflets to young people's societies, designed to provoke Christians to good works. Some months later he received a letter from a neighboring city inviting to a personal interview. On his arrival he was driven out into the suburbs of the city, where a handsome church was pointed out to him. "What do you think of that?" he was asked. "Why, it is a very pretty house of worship," was the reply. "But what of it?" "Simply this: That church is the outcome of one of your leaflets. On receiving it, our society began to look about to see what we could do to spread the Gospel. We found an empty store in this deserted part of the city and opened a mission Sunday-school. Soon we outgrew our quarters, and hired the adjacent store. By-and-by the elders of the church began to inquire what we were doing out there. In a few months they took us out and showed us a handsome corner lot, and said, 'Young men, we have bought that lot for your mission. Now go to work and build a church on it.' We did, and the inspiration of the whole movement is due to that letter of yours." Thus a seed sown by the wayside oftentimes brings forth fruit a hundred-fold. The world is full of people who need sympathy and encouragement and "a word spoken in due season, how good it is!" It may arrest the thoughtless, or cheer the despondent, or inspire the young with lofty ambition. A single tract sometimes does more than twenty sermons in awakening and rescuing the unsaved.

## Matrimonial.

COLLINS—YONCE.—Near Fort Collins, at their home, Colorado, Sept. 10, at 7:00 P. M., by the Rev. Wilson of the Christian Church, brother James Collins to sister Ota Yonce. This young couple were formerly members of my congregation at Maple Grove, Ind., and were worthy members and workers in all departments of church work. We miss them very much, but circumstances have separated us far from each other. We wish them much happiness in this life, and an unfading crown of eternal joy in the world to come. Their former pastor,

WM. W. SUMMERS.

FAIR—KEEVER.—At the residence of the bride's cousin, Henry G. Myers, September 15, at 7 P. M., by Rev. J. C. Ringer, Thomas M. Fair, of Hardy, Nebraska, to Miss Mary Keever, of Jewell Co., Kans. The groom is well known as one of the substantial business men of Hardy, and the bride is an estimable lady